

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/060,185	SHIMBAYASHI ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dang T. Nguyen	2824	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03 January 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>search history</u>. |
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Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 1/24/05. Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 20, 28-29, 40-41, 44, and 47 have been amended. Claims 1 - 47 are pending on this application. Claims 1, 8, 20, 29, 41, and 44 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 – 47 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1 and 8, in addition to other elements in the respective claims, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including a selected nonvolatile memory cell which is in a first memory block of the memory blocks and is subject to the reading, and the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including only non-selected nonvolatile memory cells which are in a second memory block and are not subject to the reading"

With respect to claim 20, in addition to other elements in the respective claims, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including a selected nonvolatile memory cell which is in a first memory block of the memory blocks and is subject to access; and the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including only non-selected nonvolatile memory cells which are in a second memory block of the memory blocks and are not subject to the access"

With respect to claim 29, in addition to other elements in the respective claims, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including a selected nonvolatile memory cell which is subject to the reading of memory

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cell information; and the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including only non-selected nonvolatile memory cells which are not subject to the reading of the memory cell information”

With respect to claims 41 and 44, in addition to other elements in the respective claims, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest “a first data line to which the selected nonvolatile memory cell which is subject to reading of memory cell information is connected through the digit line and through which a current based on the memory cell information flows; and a connection changing portion for holding a predetermined connecting relation to the first and second data lines to the current load portion by changing a connection between the data lines and the current load portion”.

3. The prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Derner et al. and Hirota, taken individually or in combination, do not teach the claimed invention of the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including a selected nonvolatile memory cell which is in a first memory block of the memory blocks and is subject to the reading, and the plurality of nonvolatile memory cells including only non-selected nonvolatile memory cells which are in a second memory block and are not subject to the reading, in combination with other limitations.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Dang Nguyen, who can be reached by telephone at (571) 272-1955. Normal contact times are M-F, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Upon an unsuccessful attempt to contact the examiner, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms, may be reached at (571) 272-1869.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900. The faxed phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the Status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or EBC@uspto.gov.

Dang Nguyen 3/8/2005



**VAN THU NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**